

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas TX 75356
Electronic mail: fmaia@cwixmail.com Website: <http://www.w5yi.org>
Tel. 817-461-6443 FAX: 817-548-9594

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Station Call Signs Issued to May 1st

New & Upgrading Amateur Statistics

Vendors Cited at Dayton Hamvention

About 25,000 amateurs made their annual pilgrimage May 14 to 16 to the Dayton Hamvention – the nation's largest hamfest. For the third year in a row, the weather was beautiful.

Most long time attendees and exhibitors again agreed that attendance was down about 10% over last year – probably reflecting the influence and popularity of the Internet, inexpensive cell phones and personal computers on our high tech communications hobby. There also seemed to be less exhibitors at Dayton this year.

The various Dayton Amateur Radio Association committees under the able leadership of General Chairman Dick Miller, N8CBU and his assistant Jim Graver, KB8PSO did their usual superlative job in staging the annual event.

The sold-out Saturday evening Hamvention banquet was held at the Nutter Center on the campus of Wright State University in nearby Fairborn, Ohio. One of DARA's own, Alfonso R. Torres, KP4AQI was presented the *Technical Excellence Award* for his many engineering contributions to Amateur Radio ...including a recently developed (and patent pending) method to "see" RF radiation. Torres is a professor at the University of Dayton School of Engineering and an ex-DARA president.

Paul D. Lieb, KH6HME of Hawaii took the *Special Achievement Award* for his VHF/UHF/microwave long distance communications records and experimentation using tropospheric ducting. Kenneth M. Miller, K6IR was honored as *1999 Ham of*

the Year for his leadership, vision and dedication to Amateur Radio spanning over 60 years.

For the second year in a row, the banquet featured a concert by a ham entertainer. Last year it was Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG. This year Joe Walsh, WB6ACU – formerly with the *Eagles* – performed. The banquet entertainment also included an excellent Irish dance group in authentic Gaelic costume

As usual, Dayton featured dozens of excellent educational programs covering every amateur radio subject imaginable -- including PACTOR, QRP, RF Safety, Spectrum Management, antenna technology, kit building, AMSAT (Satellites), TAPR (Digital) MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System), a Teacher's Workshop, contesting, slow scan TV, frequency coordination, ham radio and the Internet ...and much more!

The FCC Forum

The standing room only FCC Forum was presented by William T. Cross, W3TN and Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Bill is with the Commission's Policy and Rules Branch of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division in Washington, DC.

This division oversees the Amateur Service and is responsible for most of its rulemaking. Riley Hollingsworth focuses on Amateur Radio enforcement actions in the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau.

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Bill started off by introducing Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH "...also is known as "Riley the Enforcer." He received an enthusiastic standing ovation from the audience for his work. Cross also mentioned that there were also a number of other FCC field office staffers at this year's Dayton Hamvention. "They brought a mobile DFing vehicle with them." And rumor has it that several citations were issued during Hamvention.

Bill thanked the many VEs in attendance. "Last year you held over 9,000 exam sessions, you gave exams to over 56,500 individuals and you administered over 94,000 examination elements. 9,000 examination sessions - that averages out to 180 sessions every weekend nationwide or 14 opportunities in each state every month to take exams. You all have been busy. Because of you, I seldom hear legitimate complaints about the lack of availability of exam opportunities. You VEs are a big part of the reason this service works.

"And VECs? You all had to check all the work the VEs did, process the files and transmit them to us. And you did all this with an extremely low defect rate. This is why examinees are getting their license grants sometimes within a day or two of taking the exam. Thank you. When we did it, 6 week waits for licenses were typical; even 3 months was not uncommon.

"I'm here to summarize for you the Commission's major rule making and licensing activities that have or will affect the amateur service and to listen to your remarks. What I ask of you is to carry the information I talk about back to your clubs, newsletter writers, nets and other groups. Just don't include my e-mail address. There are about 725,000 of you and one of me.

Regulatory direction

"I want to take a minute and tell you about the Commission's agenda this year. As some of you know, the Commission is composed of 5 commissioners appointed by the president, and confirmed by the Senate.

"Chairman Kennard laid out this year's objectives in a speech he gave on January 7. His speech is on our web-page. His agenda is to promote competition, to foster new technologies, to protect consumers, and to ensure that all Americans have access to the wonders of the communications revolution. There also is the on-going goal of regulating only where absolutely necessary, regulating to the minimum extent necessary, and eliminating unnecessary regulations.

"The Commission's top priorities are split between telephone, mass media, and enforcement. High Definition Television implementation, complaints by telephone users about 'slamming and cramming,' Internet availability, and the transition to broadband systems are all high priority areas for the Commission. The Biennial Review of our rules required by the 1996 statute also is an on-going pro-

cess.

"I mention this so you have an idea about what the landscape is like in which ham radio is competing for attention at the Commission. The trend in regulation is simplifying and streamlining where possible, eliminating unnecessary regulations, and getting out of the business of managing.

"Last year I mentioned that asking for more regulations, especially regulations that have the effect of excluding individuals, using regulations to solve disputes between licensees or trying to involve us in the management of your service is not the direction the Commission appears to be headed in. The same is true this year.

"The Chief of the Wireless Bureau, where I work, pointed out that one problem we encounter constantly is that for every advocate of deregulation, there is one for regulation. And sometimes they're the same people, just on different sides for different issues.

"We encounter this constantly in the Amateur Service. For example, the spread spectrum folks fully support eliminating restrictions on spreading codes in Part 97. The repeater folks do not ...they see eliminating this restrictive regulation as increasing the noise floor in the repeater bands, thereby causing unintentional triggering of voice repeaters.

FCC web site

"How many of you have checked out the FCC's ham radio Internet Web Site? For those who haven't, you go to: <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur>>

"At the top of the amateur service home page are the most recent rule making items I think you might be interested in. Some new links have been added. Some items, like the Universal Licensing System *Report and Order*, are not strictly amateur radio items, but it includes the Amateur Service. Each listing is linked to the item so that all you have to do is click your mouse to view the item. If you download it, you can see for yourself what the item says.

"The selection of items is based on feedback and my judgment. If you think something else should be there, let me know. My e-mail address is bcross@fcc.gov. My standard is this: If the link will save me answering a question, it goes on.

Licensing of amateur operators

"One question that keeps coming up, both from within the FCC and from individuals who encounter your examination system, is 'Why do we license amateur radio operators? All they do is operate a radio!' Another question that is kind of a corollary to this, and it came from an individual who is an Amateur Extra Class licensee who had been asked to be the trustee of a club repeater, is 'What is the duty of a licensee or trustee?'

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"There are two reasons we license amateur radio operators. One is that the international *Radio Regulations* require that we take measures as we find necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station. This now is in IRR S25.6.

"The second reason is that Section 303(l)(1) of the *Communications Act of 1934*, as amended, requires the Commission issue licenses only to persons it finds qualified. There is no statute that allows the Commission to grant any individual an exemption from the licensing requirements codified in Section 97.501 of the Rules. Section 97.510 provides that applicants for Amateur Service licenses must pass examinations that show they possess the operational and technical qualifications necessary to perform properly the duties of an amateur service licensee.

"What are those duties? The duties of a club station trustee are the same as the duties of a primary station licensee. These duties are specified in Section 97.103. A trustee or licensee has three duties:

- (1) insure the proper operation of the station,
- (2) designate the control operator(s) of the station, and
- (3) make that station and station records available for inspection on request of an FCC representative. Like Riley.

"You must be able to shut off the transmitter if something goes wrong. How you perform these duties is up to you, but if they are not performed, you are in violation of the rules. And you get to tell Riley about how it isn't going to happen again.

"There are three types of control that can be used at amateur service stations. Control is part of the way we all insure the proper operation of our stations. There is local, remote, and automatic control. These are defined in Section 97.109. When a station is operated under either local or remote control, the control operator must be at the control point. Why? To manipulate the operating adjustments in the station to achieve compliance with the FCC's Rules. This allows you to shut off the transmitter if something goes wrong. Any station can be operated under local or remote control.

"Automatic control is the third type of control. It is the one that has been in use when some people have had problems recently. And got to meet Riley or his associates. The ones in the DF car.

"Under the rules, only certain types of stations may be automatically controlled. It means that these stations have devices and procedures for control of a station that are being used so that compliance with the rules is achieved without the control operator being at the control point. Automatic control does not mean turn the transmitter on and go on vacation, go to work, or take a sail into the Pacific and forget about your station.

"We have had some problems in this regard recently. It seems the station was transmitting but there were

no devices or procedures in use so that compliance with the rules was achieved. Of all the types of control to execute, automatic control is probably the most difficult.

"The second duty, designating the control operator(s) of the station, seems pretty clear but generates a lot of questions. First of all, the control operator must be a person who has been granted a license by us, or be a person who holds a license issued by the government of Canada, or is an alien licensee operating under reciprocal authority. Usually the control operator is the licensee of the station.

"The control operator is designated by the licensee and is responsible, as is the licensee, that the transmissions from that station comply with the rules. We will presume the licensee is the control operator unless documentation to the contrary is in the station records. OK so far – if you are going to appoint someone to be your station control operator, you need station records. And you both are responsible for the station's operation. Now, where's the problem?

"The problems come up in the applications. Let's say you appoint another licensee control operator of your repeater and take off for vacation. Or work. Or a sail. And that other licensee allows all kind of terrible things to happen. You are still responsible. And you better have a way of fixing the problem or Riley comes a calling.

"Or let's say you are the licensee or trustee of one super big contest station or a Field Day station. Your operators are a mix of General, Advanced, and Extra Class licensees. Just because the station licensee or trustee is Extra Class, does not mean that all the control operators get Extra Class privileges. Rather, if you are going to designate a General class licensee the control operator of the 40M station, for example, that control operator's privileges are his or her General Class operator privileges. And as licensee of the station, you are responsible for insuring that it is operated within the privileges of the control operator's license. Remember, operating privileges are based on the class of operator license the control operator has qualified for, not the call sign of the station or the privileges of someone else's license.

"I hope I don't read in your club's newsletter, 'Come to Field Day or operate the CQ-WW contest from here – everyone has Extra Class privileges'. There also is no license class called the 'DXpedition Upgrade Class.'

"A second question that has been coming a lot is Y2K related. A number of your brethren have called and asked, in essence, if the prohibited communications rule goes out the window if communication or other systems don't work on January 1. I have had calls from hams at a pharmaceutical company, a big electric power utility in the southwest, and a nationwide bank out of New England, all asking if they could use ham radio for business related communications if their computer or communication systems fail on January 1.

"The fellow at the electric utility was trying to con-

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vince me that Y2K is an emergency and that the safety of life and property exception in Section 97.403 would apply.

"What struck me as odd about all this was the questions came the same month that an article appeared in QST saying there was no Y2K problems with all our equipment.

"Y2K is a software problem. It is not a natural disaster or a disaster in the sense the word is used in Part 97. If software problems were disasters, Microsoft would have had all your frequencies 15 years ago. And we wouldn't be here.

"The answer to these inquiries is that the rules about permissible and prohibited communications in Part 97 do not change on January 1, 2000. These rules prohibit the control operator from transmitting communications on behalf of an employer. There is no exception for Y2K.

Vanity Call Signs

"As of May 5, all "Vanity" call sign applications received through April 16th have been processed. We are still getting about 1000 applications a month. Something like 90 percent of them are coming in electronically.

"Last year I mentioned there is no rule that requires truth in call signs. For example, there is no requirement that you have a Ph.D. or be an MD to have 'PHD' or 'MD' at the end of your call sign. Or to live in Tennessee to have a call sign that ends in 'TN'. When it comes to arranging letters and numbers and gaming the system, your creativity is still astonishing. We expected nothing less. This is the incentive in a vanity system.

"Some licensees are picking combinations of letters and numbers that other licensees find objectionable. This also is an incentive of a vanity call sign system. The other licensees are letting us know they don't like some of the choices. Licensees that use the vanity call sign system to make a statement or pick a call sign that offends you still receive the protection of the first amendment of the Constitution. We do not censor call signs.

"Several of you still are helping out by keeping close watch on the vanity call signs that are being assigned. You are still bringing to our attention instances where the requester is not eligible for what he was assigned. We had another example of this last fall. As you may recall, the first vanity call signs were assigned November 4, 1996. That meant the 2-year hold on the call signs surrendered ended November 5, 1998. A lot of good call signs were given up in 1996.

"One fellow in California jumped the gate on the November 5 date. He applied for a 1X2, claiming to be a former holder. The original and only real former holder got wind of this and wrote us. No so, he said, and he provided copies of the original 1976 license, the 1981 renewal, the 1986 renewal (which was good for 10 years) and the FCC Form 610V requesting that it be surren-

dered for his current vanity call sign. Mr. Gatejumper lost the call sign.

"To research old call signs, or get information about your vanity call sign, contact the Commission's research contractor. We do not do research for you. [Contact is: International Transcription Services, 2100 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20037. Tel. 202-857-3800.]

"Speaking of vanity call signs, on March 24, 1999, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MD Docket No. 98-200. It proposes to increase the fee for vanity call sign applications from \$13.00 to \$14.20. The final fee may be different. If adopted, the new fee would become applicable when the new fee schedule becomes effective. The fee you pay is based on the date your application is filed with the Commission. The fee is \$13.00 for applications received before the effective date for collection of FY 1999 fees.

Special Event Call Signs

"The special event call sign system has been up and running for a while now. It is a self-administered system where certified volunteer entities serve as call sign data base coordinators. They coordinate, maintain and disseminate a common on-line data base for the special event call signs. A *Public Notice* is on our home page so you know about this system and who the coordinators are.

"On April 30, we denied a petition for reconsideration from David Popkin. He asked that we impose a number of conditions and limitations on the special event call sign system. The Commission found that his requested changes were unnecessary and that the current rules adequately addressed his concerns.

"The Commission also has denied a request from the ARRL that we expand the special event call sign system. It wanted to include all the offshore call signs that can not be assigned by the sequential call sign system because they are not mailing addresses.

Now for the big items.

"On December 12, 1998, the Commission published the rules it adopted in WT Docket No. 98-20 in the Federal register. They became effective February 12. This docket is referred to as the *Universal Licensing System* or ULS docket. It modernizes the Commission's licensing processes so that we can take even greater advantage of automation in our licensing systems.

"In the ULS proceeding, the Commission has revised and streamline rules governing application procedures for every radio services including the Amateur Service, that is licensed by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The Commission consolidated the procedural rules relating to applications contained in 11 sets of service-specific rules into Part 1. Your publishers may want to include some of these rules in your rule books. [See page 7 for a recap of the new rules.]

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"ULS will support full electronic filing of all licensing-related applications and associated filings. It also will provide the public with better on-line access to public licensing information than is available today.

"There are a lot of changes that affect the Amateur Service. There are changes to your forms, one of them is gone, others will disappear and more importantly, ULS changes to the whole philosophy of licensing.

"The biggest change you will probably notice is that the FCC Form 610 and Form 610V is going to be replaced by the FCC Short Form 605. FCC Short Form 605 will be used as a quick-form application for applicants who are not presently required to submit extensive technical data to receive a license. The 610 seems has been around forever. You probably have some at home. They will make good kindling next winter.

"The FCC Form 605 is a very simple form. It asks for only basic information that is needed to identify you and tell us what you want to do. Renew your license or change your address, for example. Remember, if you are upgrading or getting a new license, this application comes in through the VECs. Many renewals or other modifications do, too. Vanity call sign applications will be by way of a schedule that is attached to the form. There goes the FCC Form 610V – a casualty of progress.

"There is no need for the form to collect VE information because this does not come to the Commission. The VEC keeps these forms for at least 15 months. Except for one VEC in California who kept them in his tool shed. The tool shed was buried in the Northridge earthquake. He assured us he could keep them forever.

"Same with physician's certifications. The VEs use this as a basis for examination element credit. It stays with the VEC – not us. All we need to know is who you are, an address, and what operator license class you are qualified for.

"The second change is not so monumental to you from an operational point of view, but it helps us a lot.

"Prior to the ULS decision, we granted some 2,000+ reciprocal permits annually to amateur operators from certain foreign countries. It was a paper based system that kept us in the keypunching business. No standards are required of these applicants other than possession of the license document issued by their country of citizenship. The FCC-issued permit, therefore, simply confirmed that the holder of the permit also holds a license from his or her home country, and we couldn't charge a fee for these licenses.

"ULS changed this. Reciprocal operating authority for aliens that want to operate an amateur station here now is by rule. We no longer issue reciprocal permits. We don't and won't even know about alien operators here under reciprocal operating authority or provisions of the CEPT or CITEL agreements. CEPT and CITEL are agreements the ARRL worked with the State Department to get through.

"The third change is that club, RACES, and military recreation station applications will now go through a coordinator rather than coming directly to us. We have to get this system set up and going, but a few organizations already have said they wanted to do it. This will eliminate the need for the FCC Form 610B.

"We plan to bring the Amateur Service into ULS later this year. Our programmers were busy trying to program your vanity call sign system into ULS last I heard. They were really struggling.

"As each wireless service database is transferred to ULS, the Commission will provide information by *Public Notice* announcing the availability and use of ULS forms for that service.

"For the service that have been brought into ULS, we have had a transition period during which old and new forms were accepted. Generally it is about six months. I expect this will continue as services are brought over.

"The Commission also decided that electronic filing of Amateur Service applications would not be mandatory, except for the VECs. So, even after the cut-over is made, you will be able to mail in your Form 605 as some of you still do. The electronically filed one will go zipping through the system, though.

"To use ULS, you have to register. This means identifying yourself to ULS, associating yourself with call signs, and getting a password into the system so that you can access it. You will have to be registered to use the system, and ultimately, you will have to use it.

"Details of how amateur radio operators can register were published in a Factsheet that came out April 23, 1999. There is a stack of them on the table in the back. It also is on the amateur service homepage. You must register before you can file an application in the ULS, before you can renew your license, or before a VEC can file your upgrade for you. You do not have to register before the Amateur Service is converted to ULS, but you may.

Reciprocal licensing changes

"Let me talk about the reciprocal operation changes that have gone into effect for a moment.

"Citizens of Canada holding an amateur service license granted by the Government of Canada and citizens of countries holding an amateur service license granted by a country with which the United States has made reciprocal operating arrangements now are authorized by Section 97.107 to be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting from a place where the Amateur Radio Service is regulated by the FCC.

"Operator privileges are those authorized by the alien's government, but do not exceed those of the Amateur Extra Class operator.

"No United States citizen, regardless of any other citizenship also held, is eligible for reciprocal operating authority. The alien must be a citizen of the country that

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granted his or her amateur service license.

"CEPT and IARP licensees also are included in this decision. CEPT amateur radio license Class 1 and Class 1 IARP licensees receive Amateur Extra Class operator privileges; all CEPT and IARP licensees receive Technician Class privileges. Again, this authority is not available to any United States citizen, regardless of any other citizenship also held, and the license must be issued by the country of citizenship. US citizens must take and pass the exams required by Part 97.

"A British ham asked a question about this. It seems that in the UK, hams have a UK license and it is stamped CEPT amateur radio license Class 1 or 2. He wanted to know which license he was to operate under. The difference is that under the UK license, he has less privileges here than under the CEPT license.

"For an alien licensee, the decision as to which license he or she will operate under is his or hers. The FCC does not have any interest in telling an alien which of their licenses determines their operating privileges here. As long as the license is issued by their country of citizenship, the licensee can decide which of their licenses to use for their operating or licensing authority.

"We still have to get out a *Public Notice* so that you can operate in other countries under the authority of the CEPT agreement. The *Public Notice* has to be in three languages.

"I was wondering how long it would take me to learn two more languages. Bart Janke of the ARRL/VEC has bailed you out on this one. He sent me a list of internet language translation sites. Type in the text, click, and out comes the translation. Of course, the same input text comes out a bit differently from each one, but our language is the same way. Hopefully, the translation will be good enough for the foreign official to not confiscate your radio.

"We are working with our International Bureau to prepare this *Public Notice* now. It should be out soon.

Amateur service restructuring

The WT Docket No. 98-143 Biennial Review proceeding. This is the one you all have been waiting for.

"In this proceeding, the Commission is examining the Amateur Radio Service Rules in an effort to streamline our licensing processes and eliminate unnecessary and duplicative rules. This review is intended to examine ways to further streamline the administration of the amateur service and to simplify the licensing process.

"In the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, we proposed to simplify the amateur service license structure to a four-class license structure by grandfathering the Novice Class operator license and by combining the Technician and Technician Plus classes of amateur radio operator licenses. We also sought comment generally on whether we could reduce the number of license classes while still encouraging amateur radio operators to ad-

vance their skills in meaningful ways.

"Second, we sought comment on all aspects of the Morse code standards used in our telegraphy examinations, including whether we should continue to have a standard that requires three different telegraphy examinations or whether this standard should be reduced to one or two telegraphy examinations, and, if so, what the required speeds should be.

"We sought comment on whether the written examination requirements should be modified to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations.

"There were other parts of the proposal, too, such as authorizing Advanced Class operators to prepare and administer examinations for the General Class operator license and eliminating RACES station licenses by not renewing them. But, as your comments showed, you all recognized that the keystone of our proposal was the simplification of the Amateur Service license structure and the streamlining of our licensing processes.

"The comments and reply comments are in. There are over 2250 of them. You can read them in the ECFS system.

"The League's was 41 pages long. Plus 4 exhibits. And one appendix. One interesting thing about the League's comments was that others were saying they supported it or opposed it – before it was filed. What these were really commenting on was the Board of Director's meeting decisions or a committee's recommendation that was published months before the comments (and the League's proposal) were filed.

"Others had pictures – I liked those, especially the one with the picture of Samuel Morse. The paper comments fill 2 zerox boxes in my office. They, and the electronic ones, have been read, summarized, categorized, analyzed, tabulated, etc.

"With regard to the question about the number of license classes, the comments supported anywhere from 1 to 7 operator license classes. Some commenters want some of the current license classes to remain and add new classes of licenses. Most of you thought that 3 or 4 classes of operator licenses are enough. The ARRL wants 4; the NCVEC (National Conference of VECs) suggested we simplify even further than our proposal and go to 3 classes of operator licenses. A few of you wanted us to redo the 1951 license structure and then start again in 1999.

"I think I can safely say that simplification and streamlining isn't going to result in the same or more license classes, or new ones. Also, 1 or 2 operator license classes isn't going to encourage amateur radio operators to advance their skills the meaningful ways you want. A two-class structure is essentially a code/no-code or a VHF and above and HF operator license class structure. There isn't much support for going this way. That leaves 3-4 classes.

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"On the written exams, your comments were generally that they aren't testing on the correct information. You want change here."

"Now for a shameless advertisement: send the questions you want in your question pools to the VEC Question Pool Committee or QPC. For about 13 years, this group of individuals, year in and year out has had the burden of revising each of the question pools (there are five of them) every few years. They do their best to keep them current. The work is thankless. And hard. And boring to some extent. It is a schedule that never ends."

"The QPC has called in all kind of resources from educators and trainers and other that know about testing and learning. They do their work so you can buy study guides and upgrade your licenses. And they need help."

"If you think your exams are not asking questions on the right material, it is because the right questions are not making it into the question pools. And that is probably because the QPC isn't receiving them from you. They ask for questions every year and from what I have heard, suggested questions just aren't flooding in."

[Send your question suggestions to: Ray Adams W4CPA – email: <wcars@korrnet.org>, Fred Maia W5YI <w5yi@w5yi.org>, Bart Jahnke W9JJ <bjahnke@arrl.org> and/or Scotty Neustadter W4VVW <scotty@airnet.net>.]

"The questions about the standards used in your telegraphy examinations drew the most passionate responses. Many of you wanted a single telegraphy exam at 5 wpm. The ARRL suggested we reduce telegraphy to two elements – a 5 wpm and a 12 wpm exam."

"The commenters that asked for telegraphy requirements to be raised above 20 wpm probably are going to be disappointed."

"Now for the major announcement concerning the license structure your editors said would come at this forum: I can confirm, without reservation, that the rumors that have been flying fast and furious as to what the Commission has decided or will decide are just rumors."

"I do not have any announcement to make as to what the Commission has decided in this proceeding because the Commission hasn't decided anything as of last Thursday."

Bill Cross said that there were two processes though which the FCC Commissioners could rule on the Amateur Service restructuring item. It could be approved via the "circulation" route ...that is the *Report and Order* would be "circulated" to each of the Commissioner's offices for signature. Or the proceeding could be considered at the Commissioner's regular "Agenda Meeting."

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

While Bill Cross spoke from a prepared text, Riley Hollingsworth addressed the crowd "off the cuff." He

said the Amateur Service enforcement effort began in earnest last October and that the CIB (*Compliance and Information Bureau*) was being "...as creative with enforcement as some of the people we are going after."

He mentioned that some 150 warning letters had been issued and that in 75 to 80 percent of the cases, the letter resolved the problem.

CIB is making extensive use of evidence – such as tape recordings and WAV files – submitted by the Amateur community, especially that from the Amateur auxiliary and official observer corps.

Riley said that where warranted, the Commission was stepping up station inspections. Other actions taken include the FCC checking into Amateur networks, short term renewals or suspensions of licenses and retesting of questionable Amateurs. All action taken against violators is public information and CIB is immediately releasing information about their enforcement activities to serve as a warning to others that the rules must be followed and are being enforced.

Many violators want to provoke people. Hollingsworth felt that "shunning violators." ...that is, ignoring them on the air was an effective way to deal with many problem Amateurs. He also mentioned the questionable communications on 75 meters where "...40 years of enforcement might raise the activity there to CB level." He said the CIB is "working" on the 75 meter problem.

There was a lengthy question and answer session after Bill Cross' and Riley Hollingsworth's remarks. Most were about enforcement issues and the audience was indeed pleased that the FCC was taking action where necessary. Hollingsworth mentioned that a station inspection was recently attempted at the QTH of K1MAN and that the FCC's decision not to renew the operator license of KV4FZ was in the final appeal process.

Changes to the FCC Part 97 Rules

Here is a summary of the Part 97 changes that were made as a result of the new *Universal Licensing System* (ULS.) Theoretically they are all in effect now ...even though use of the new Form 605 has yet to be implemented.

§ 97.3 Three new definitions were added.

Sec. 97.3 - Definitions

CEPT radio-amateur license. A license issued by a country belonging to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) that has adopted Recommendation T/R 61-01 (Nice 1985, revised in Paris 1992 and by correspondence August 1992).

IARP. International Amateur Radio Permit. A document issued pursuant to the terms of the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit by a country signatory to that Convention, other than the United States. (Montrois, Haiti. AG/doc.3216/95).

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ULS (Universal Licensing System). The consolidated database, application filing system and processing system for all Wireless Telecommunications Services.

§ 95.5 - Changed to reflect that amateurs are authorized to operate an amateur station if they are listed in the new ULS database or authorized under the new foreign amateur operator rules. All references to the station license printed on FCC Form 660 and reciprocal permit printed on FCC Form 610-AL were removed from the rules and paper licenses will probably be discontinued in the future. New Sec. 97.5(d) adds holders of CEPT and IARP licenses to the list of persons authorized to operate in the U.S.

Sec. 97.5 Station license grant required.

(a) The station apparatus must be under the physical control of a person named in an amateur station license grant on the ULS consolidated license database or a person authorized for alien reciprocal operation by § 97.107 of this Part.

(d) A CEPT radio-amateur license is issued to the person by the country of which the person is a citizen.

(e) An IARP is issued to the person by the country of which the person is a citizen.

The person must not:

- (1) Be a resident alien or citizen of the United States, regardless of any other citizenship also held;
- (2) Hold an FCC-issued amateur operator license nor reciprocal permit for alien amateur licensee;
- (3) Be a prior amateur service licensee whose FCC-issued license was revoked, suspended for less than the balance of the license term and the suspension is still in effect, suspended for the balance of the license term and relicensing has not taken place, or surrendered for cancellation following notice of revocation, suspension or monetary forfeiture proceedings; or
- (4) Be the subject of a cease and desist order that relates to amateur service operation and which is still in effect.

§ 97.7 Changed to reflect that control operators must be amateurs listed in the ULS database (and not necessarily holders paper U.S. license documents.) Foreign operators may operate in accordance with new § 97.107. Reference to the paper alien operator permit documents was removed from rules.

Sec. 97.7 Control operator required.

When transmitting, each amateur station must have a control operator. The control operator must be a person:

- (a) For whom an amateur operator/primary station license grant appears on the ULS consolidated licensee database, or
- (b) Who is authorized for alien operation by § 97.107 of this Part.

§ 97.9 Reference to "license" was changed to "license grant." FCC Form 610 application document is being replaced by the new FCC Form 605.

Sec. 97.9 Operator license.

(b) The person named in an operator license grant of Novice, Technician, Technician Plus, General, or Advanced Class, who has properly submitted to the administering VEs, a FCC Form 605 document requesting examination for an operator license grant of a higher class, and who holds a CSCE indicating that the person has completed the necessary examinations within the previous 365 days, is authorized to exercise the rights and privileges of the higher operator class until a final disposition of the application or until 365 days following the passing of the examination, whichever comes first.

§ 97.15 Text of this section on antenna height has been greatly reduced. It simply now reads:

Sec. 97.15 Station antenna structures.

Owners of certain antenna structures more than 60.96 meters (200 feet) above ground level at the site or located near or at a public use airport must notify the Federal Aviation Administration and register with the Commission as required by Part 17 of this Chapter

§ 97.17 - States that no new RACES licenses will be issued. All references to the FCC Form 610, 610-A and 610-B applications are eliminated. The information required by VEs may be collected on forms of their choosing rather than on a Form 610. New club and military recreation station grants will now be handled by a Club Station Call Sign Administrator.

Sec. 97.17 Application for new license grant.

(a) Any qualified person is eligible to apply for a new operator/primary station, club station or military recreation station license grant. No new grant will be issued for a RACES station.

(b) Each application for a new amateur service license grant must be filed with the FCC as follows:

(1) Each candidate for an amateur radio operator license which requires the applicant to pass one or more examination elements must present the administering VEs with all information required by the rules prior to the examination. The VEs may collect the information required by these rules in any manner of their choosing, including creating their own forms. Upon completion of the examination, the administering VEs will immediately grade the test papers and will then issue a certificate for successfully completion of an amateur radio operator examination (CSCE) if the applicant is successful. The VEs send all necessary information regarding the candidate to the Volunteer-Examiner Coordinator (VEC) coordinating the examination session. Applications filed with the Commission by VECs must be filed in an electronic batch file.

(2) For a new club or military recreation station license grant, each applicant must present all information required by the rules to an amateur radio organization having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of

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1986 that provides voluntary, uncompensated and unreimbursed services in providing club and military recreation station call signs ("Club Station Call Sign Administrator") who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file. The Club Station Call Sign Administrator may collect the information required by these rules in any manner of their choosing, including creating their own forms. The Club Station Call Sign Administrator must retain the applicants information for at least 15 months and make it available to the FCC upon request. The FCC will issue public announcements listing the qualified organizations that have completed a pilot autogrant batch filing project and are authorized to serve as a Club Station Call Sign Administrator.

§ 97.19 - Reference to Vanity call sign Form 610-V eliminated. This information is now collected on new Schedule "D" of FCC Form 605. Vanity applications may be filed manually or electronically. All FCC application information now contained in new Sec. 1.913 of the rules. See end of this section.

Sec. 97.19 Application for a vanity call sign.

(b) Each application for a modification of an operator-primary or club station license grant, or the renewal thereof, to show a call sign selected by the vanity call sign system must be filed in accordance with § 1.913 of this chapter.

§ 97.21 - Renewals and modifications. All references to the Form 610 have been eliminated. Club and military recreation stations must apply to a Club Station Call Sign Administrator who is required to file the applications electronically. Renewals must be handled as per Sec. 1.913.

§ 1.913 - The handling of all FCC applications is now a section of Part 1, Practice and Procedure. The application instructions that were in Part 97 are now in § 1.913. Basically it says that amateur and commercial radio applications (except those filed by VECs) may be filed manually. Applications handled by a VEC must be filed electronically.

Sec. 1.913 Application forms; electronic and manual filing.

(a) **Application Forms.** Applicants and licensees in the Wireless Radio Services shall use the following forms and associated schedules for all applications:

(4) **FCC Form 605, Quick-form Application for Authorization for Wireless Radio Services.** FCC Form 605 is used to apply for Amateur, Ship, Aircraft, and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) authorizations, as well as Commercial Radio Operator Licenses.

(b) **Electronic filing.** Except as specified in subparagraph (d) or elsewhere in this chapter, all applications and other filings using FCC Forms 601 through 605 or associated schedules must be filed electronically in accordance with the electronic filing instructions provided by ULS. For each Wireless Radio

Service that is subject to mandatory electronic filing, this subparagraph is effective on (1) July 1, 1999, or (2) six months after the Commission begins use of ULS to process applications in the service, which ever is later. The Commission will announce by public notice the deployment date of each service in ULS.

(d) *Manual filing.*

(1) ULS Forms 601, 603 and 605 may be filed manually or electronically by applicants and licensees in the following services:

(ii) the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service, except those filed by Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators;

(vi) Part 13 Commercial Radio Operators; and

(2) Manually filed applications must be submitted to the Commission at the appropriate address with the appropriate filing fee. *****

(4) Manually filed applications that do not require fees must be addressed and sent to Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-7245

(5) Standard forms may be reproduced and the copies used in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 0.409 of this chapter.

(f) **Applications for Amateur licenses.** Each candidate for an amateur radio operator license which requires the applicant to pass one or more examination elements must present the administering Volunteer Examiners (VE) with all information required by the rules prior to the examination. The VEs may collect the information required by these rules in any manner of their choosing, including creating their own forms. Upon completion of the examination, the administering VEs will immediately grade the test papers and will then issue a certificate of successful completion of an amateur radio operator examination (CSCE) if the applicant is successful. The VEs will send all necessary information regarding a candidate to the Volunteer-Examiner Coordinator (VEC) coordinating the examination session. All other applications for amateur service licenses may be submitted manually to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245, or may be electronically filed via ULS. Feeable requests for vanity call signs must be filed in accordance with Sec. 0.401 of this chapter or electronically filed via ULS.

§ 97.107 - Operation by foreign amateur operators is now authorized by rule providing there is a reciprocal agreement in force. No permit is issued. Foreign amateurs (except Canada) identify their station with the letter-numeral identifying their station location (such as W1) followed by the call sign granted by their home country. Canadian amateurs identify with the U.S. letter-numeral identifier after their call sign.

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Sec. 97.107 Alien control operator privileges.

A non-citizen of the United States ("Alien") holding an amateur service authorization granted by the alien's government is authorized to be the control operator of an amateur station located at places where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC, provided there is in effect a multilateral or bilateral reciprocal operating arrangement, to which the United States and the alien's government are parties, for amateur service operation on a reciprocal basis. The FCC will issue public announcements listing the countries with which the United States has such an agreement. No citizen of the United States or person holding an FCC amateur operator/primary station license grant is eligible for the reciprocal operating authority granted by this section.

§ 97.205 rules covering amateur repeater stations in quiet zones has been removed from the Part 97 rules and is now covered in Part 1.924.

§ 97.301 - The authorized frequency bands have been amended to show that CEPT and IARP Class 1 licensees hold Amateur Extra Class privileges in the U.S., CEPT and IARP Class 2 licensees are granted all privileges above 30 MHz.

§ 97.509 - References to 3 VEs certifying the examinees examination Form 610 document has been removed and replaced with:

Sec. 97.509 Administering VE requirements

(i) When the examinee is credited for all examination elements required for the operator license sought, 3 VEs must certify that the examinee is qualified for the license grant and that the VEs have complied with these administering VE requirements. The certifying VEs are jointly and individually accountable for the proper administration of each examination element reported. The certifying VEs may delegate to other qualified VEs their authority, but not their accountability, to administer individual elements of an examination.

§ 97.521 References to VECs collecting the Form 610's from the administering VEs has been replaced with:

Sec. 97.519 Coordinating examination sessions

(b) At the completion of each examination session, the coordinating VEC must collect applicant information and test results from the administering VEs. Within 10 days of collection, the coordinating VEC must:

- (1) Screen collected information;
- (2) Resolve all discrepancies and verify that the VEs' certifications are properly completed; and
- (3) For qualified examinees, forward electronically all required data to the FCC. All data forwarded must be retained for at least 15 months and must be made available to the FCC upon request.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of May 1999:

Radio District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen.	Group D Novice
0 (*)	AB0IO	KI0PZ	(***)	KC0FQZ
1 (*)	AA1UK	KE1LI	(***)	KB1EAK
2 (*)	AB2GC	KG2QJ	(***)	KC2FAR
3 (*)	AA3SL	KF3DF	(***)	KB3DSV
4 (*)	AF4OK	KU4ZO	(***)	KG4DBS
5 (*)	AC5SP	KM5UY	(***)	KD5HCF
6 (*)	AD6IQ	KR6AZ	(***)	KF6VZG
7 (*)	AC7AV	KK7ST	(***)	KD7FGF
8 (*)	AB8EA	KI8II	(***)	KC8MJH
9 (*)	AA9XA	KG9PP	(***)	KB9UPE
N. Mariana	NH0M	AH0BC	KH0HY	WH0ABM
Guam	(**)	AH2DK	KH2UF	WH2AOA
Hawaii	NH7Z	AH6PT	KH7TX	WH6DFZ
Am. Samoa	AH8R	AH8AH	KH8DO	WH8ABI
Alaska	AL0PN	AL7RML	KL0SZO	WL7CVC
Virgin Isl.	(**)	KP2CP	NP2KK	WP2AIK
Puerto Rico	WP3F	KP3BM	WP3CJ	WP4NON

* = All 1-by-2 & 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

** = All 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.

***= Group "C" (N-by-3) call signs have now run out in all but the 1st and 3rd call district.

Note: New prefix numerals now being assigned in Puerto Rico (KP3/WP 3), Hawaii (AH7/KH7) and Alaska (AL0/KL0)

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

NEW AND UPGRADING AMATEUR STATISTICS

For the Month of April 1997, 1998 & 1999

License Class	New Amateurs			Upgrading Amateurs		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Novice	93	88	66	5	0	0
Technician	2682	1431	1487	11	3	0
Tech Plus	221	173	125	437	361	325
General	29	42	26	415	408	227
Advanced	2	5	5	317	277	231
Extra Class	4	2	4	230	188	132
Club/Empty	188	70	83	0	0	0
Total:	3219	1811	1796	1425	1237	915
Decrease:	(43.7%) (0.8%)			(13.2%) (26.0%)		

Late Bulletin:

Four vendors were issued citations by the FCC's *Compliance and Information Bureau* at the Dayton Hamvention. Worth-More Electronics/Tomball, TX; Richard D. Pierce N2QPQ/Kettering, OH; and Emtron Industries/Sidney, Australia were cited for selling external RF power amplifiers that operate below 144 MHz.. In addition, ACOM International/Sudbury, MA and QRO Technologies, Inc. (Patrick J. Stein, N8BRA/Bryan, OH) received warnings for improper marketing of uncertified or "for export only" equipment. FCC said that repeat violations (for example, at a future Hamfest) will result in a \$7,000 fine.